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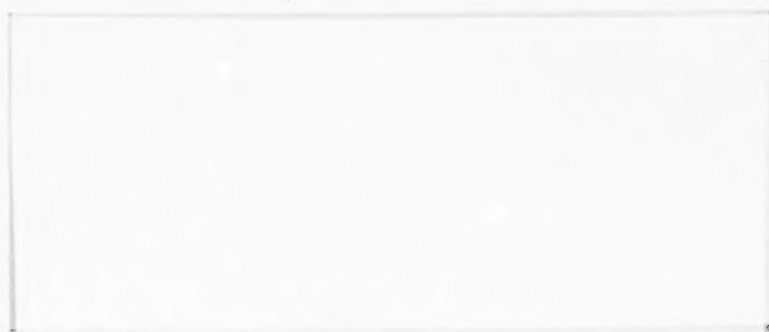
EAST TIMOR ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

February 22, 1999
Ottawa, Ontario

5008.1E







125 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

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February 23, 1999

Dear Minister

Yesterday senior officials, including Ambassador Ken Sunkist, Ingrid Hall, and CIDA officials met with four East Timor community activists and 18 Canadian NGO representatives, academics, and others to discuss the on-the-ground situation in East Timor and the needs and opportunities for peace building by Canada and Canadians.

The sobering picture presented by the guests from East Timor of armed militia, anarchy and violence, deep divisions in society, and a growing cycle of revenge killings suggests a real possibility of wide-spread violence and bloodshed, potentially escalating into a civil war in the coming months.

With that in mind the roundtable strongly recommended that Canada use our seat on the Security Council to flag the possibility of civil war and press the Council to take appropriate action to prevent conflict and maintain peace and security in East Timor.

Participants also recommended the creation of a Foreign Ministers' Friends of East Timor contact and action group.

(It was not known to the roundtable participants that the Australian Foreign Affairs Minister,, Alexander Downer, has already proposed such a Friends' Group. Nevertheless, you may want to make a public comment about the value of such a Group and your willingness to participate.)

The roundtable recommended that the Friends of East Timor Foreign Minister's Group could:

- support the UN process and exert pressure on the Indonesian government to allow UN presence in the area,
- press for an immediate cease-fire and follow up disarmament and demilitarization. This step should include efforts to prevent increased arming of the para-military by the Indonesian army,
- act as an early warning system and a quick reaction group for any crisis,
- participate in preparing a viable framework for transition.

The participants stressed the urgency for action (two months window) and the opportunity for Canada to play a leading role in this initiative. Potential member countries could include: Canada, Australia, United States, Japan, Great Britain, Portugal, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, Thailand.

The participants further emphasized the need for a UN or other outside presence in East Timor to help prevent conflict.

Canada is urged to pressure Indonesia on East Timor.

The day's discussion focused mostly on the urgent need for conflict prevention. However, longer term issues were also addressed, including:

- helping to strengthen East Timor civil society to undertake domestic peace building
- possible training (re-training) of army and police
- donor coordination
- IFI coordination
- NGO coordination
- strengthening NGO networks and state-NGO partnerships
- Canadian support/shared experience in negotiations, mediation and reconciliation efforts
- compensation and justice process for victims of war crimes.

CIDA officials shared some information about the Peace Building Fund and CIDA's abilities to respond or not to these needs. The guests from East Timor concluded the meeting by urging Canada to take a lead on East Timor, with a warning to prepare for the worst in coming months, and with a call for immediate cease-fire efforts.

You may want to include a reference to this public consultation in your media release and comments this week.

Sincerely

Steve Lee

REPORT ON EAST TIMOR ROUNDTABLE

Ottawa, February 22, 1999

I. BACKGROUND OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR

The current situation in East Timor (as described by four East Timorese guests) can be characterised as extremely serious and fluid. According to Florentino Sarmento of the Komnas Ham, clashes between proponents of independence and those supporting integration are exacerbated by additional cleavages within the East Timorese society that have developed as a result of the long standing conflict between the East Timorese and the Indonesian government. Indeed, a "cycle of revenge" feeds ever increasing incidents of violence, especially among youth. Wide-spread lawlessness has come to characterise every-day life of the East Timorese. The Indonesian military is arming the pro-integration forces and civilians take up weapons, either in desperation or for monetary gain. A "culture of violence" spreads resulting in an increase in gross human rights abuses, including arbitrary arrest, detention, arbitrary execution, disappearances, torture, rape, sexual abuse, intimidation, and the removal of citizens from their residences. Teachers, nurses, doctors, midwives, and other essential personnel have already begun to leave troubled areas as the wave of violence intensifies, leading to a societal disintegration.

Notwithstanding past and present efforts of the Canadian government, including ODA, and Canadians in development and peace building projects, the East Timorese urged Canada to take immediate action to stem the growing instability and suffering in the region.

An outside intervention for a cease-fire followed by disarmament, perhaps coordinated by Canada, is perceived as absolutely necessary to prevent a looming civil war and to ensure at least limited level of security for the East Timorese people.

The history of good relations between the Canadian and Indonesian governments bodes well for Canada to undertake such a role. The activists also expressed a desire for Canada to continue to assist the East Timorese beyond the short time horizon. Armido Maia, the former Vice-rector of the University of Timor, appealed for Canadian assistance in launching a genuine process of reconciliation. The message was pointedly summed up by Manuel Abrantes of Bishop Belo's Peace and Justice Commission, the East Timorese are asking Canadians for help, hoping for a short term leadership and a long term friendship.

Ken Sandquist, the Canadian Ambassador to Indonesia, also contributed to painting a picture of the troubled region. He stressed the importance of Canada as an ODA donor in East Timor. Furthermore, he contended that Indonesia is unlikely to fund autonomy if separation is the ultimate goal and pointed out that East Timor is increasingly perceived as a burden by the Indonesian government. He drew attention to

the position of Portugal and Australia towards the recent developments and suggested that the Portuguese government would most likely not support the autonomy option unless the East Timorese have a decisive say in determining their own destiny. Meanwhile, the Australian government tends to favor autonomy based on past political and diplomatic contexts. The Ambassador also discussed the important role of the Church -- the most trusted institution in East Timor and the rising fears of civil war within society due to wide-spread uncertainty. In conclusion of his presentation, he put forth the following principles Canada should take into consideration: 1) support for negotiations at the UN, 2) immediate cease-fire, 3) de-militarisation, and 4) continued funding. While he expressed optimism about the success of political solutions, the Ambassador was concerned about changing the ascending "culture of violence" within the East Timorese society.

II. IMMEDIATE PLAN FOR ACTION

The round-table participants forged a consensus on the *immediate* necessity of an outside presence in East Timor to stem possible civil war and enhance security of the East Timorese. A two months window for action was identified. In addition it was agreed that Canada should take a leading role in this processes based on: Canada's good relations with the Indonesian government, Minister Axworthy's interest in the region, Canada's membership on the Security Council, and active involvement of the Canadian government and NGOs in East Timor development efforts. This role could be played either through:

- UN Security Council
- Foreign Ministers' Friends of East Timor Group
- Canada's own initiatives.

It was suggested that Canada use its seat on the Security Council to flag the possibility of civil war and press the Council to take immediate action to prevent escalation of the conflict and maintain peace and security in East Timor. Here, lessons from Rwanda should be drawn upon to generate political will and mobilise UN resources. While this was fully endorsed, some participants raised the issue that a placement of UN peace-keeping troops could prove unacceptable to the Indonesian government at least until a final decision about the future of East Timor is made. Reflecting on the experience of Haiti with UN peace-keeping troops, others pointed out the danger of perceiving UN forces as a neo-colonial invasion. Some participants, suggested that other opportunities have to be explored.

Given the contentious nature of this path of action as well as the difficulty of forging an all inclusive international consensus, it was proposed that Canada takes a lead in the context of a **Foreign Ministers' Friends of East Timor Group**. This group could either compliment or be independent of the UN process. It could act as a contact and an action group, flexible enough to function as an early warning mechanism and ready to react expeditiously to fast changing circumstances. It could be precisely this group that initiates international activity. More specifically this Group could:

- a) exert pressure on the Indonesian government to allow an outside presence in the area and participate in other processes aimed at stabilisation of East Timor,
- b) **press for an immediate cease-fire and follow-up disarmament and demilitarisation** (this step should include efforts to prevent increased arming of the para-military by the Indonesian army), the participants recognised this point to be the *sine qua non* of any further action
- c) after the situation has been stabilised, start planning and thinking about the medium and long term needs of the East Timorese.

Other potential member countries of the Ministers' Group included: Australia, United States, Japan, Great Britain, Portugal, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Ireland, Thailand, South East Asia, Chile, Brazil as well as the UN.

Third, in addition and/or in case the creation of the Foreign Ministers' Friends of East Timor Group is hindered and the UN is slow to react for one reason or other, **Canada should undertake its own initiatives** on activities outlined in points a), b), and c).

III. MEDIUM AND LONG TERM VISION

In the medium and long term Canada, either on its own or in the context of a Minister's Friends of East Timor Group and/or the UN could help the East Timorese in the following areas:

- * **Coordinate donor countries, IFIs, and foreign NGO activities** to avoid duplication and redundant demands for assessment studies. Once again Canada could take steps towards this goal with, perhaps, CIDA playing a role.
- * **Support the reconciliation initiatives by providing Canadian experience in negotiations and mediation in conflict.** Canada could take lead in supporting dialogue within East Timor society by providing training in mediation and negotiation, setting up mechanisms that would prevent violent action-reaction dynamics.
- * **Support reconciliation by facilitating compensation and due justice processes for victims of war crimes.** Florentino Sarmiento noted there has been no process whereby perpetrators of crimes were brought to justice and victims compensated. He expressed doubts about the viability of reconciliation without steps towards addressing this situation. Since solidarity of the East Timorese people has been broken a need for an accommodative "neutral" Council to deal with transition is in order. The necessity and difficulty of disarming para-militaries and re-integrating militant personnel back into the society was pointed out..
- * **Initiate action to address psycho-social and physical trauma experienced especially by children in conflict areas.** Experiences with such initiatives in Nigeria and Rwanda would be particularly instructive. Such initiatives could potentially contribute to the development of culture of cooperation and communication based on tolerance.
- * **Helping to strengthen East Timorese civil society to undertake domestic peace and institution building.** To enable a genuine transformation of East Timorese institutions for the East Timorese, there is a need for capacity building. David Rhody from CARE Canada

presented some of the initiatives now under way in East Timor such as training indigenous staff to administer CARE programmes in agriculture, sanitation and clean water. Jacques Bertrand of University of Toronto expressed concern about the imminent institutional vacuum that is to come on the heels of escalating conflict or Indonesian withdrawal, capacity building initiatives should address this problem immediately. According to Norm MacDonnel from CIDA, supporting activities such as the use of media and grass roots discussions could help to develop a culture of tolerance and prepare the way for democracy. Furthermore, initiatives supporting the planning and strengthening of East Timorese provincial government were briefly addressed.

*** Helping to strengthen East Timorese NGO networks and state-NGO partnership.** Antonio Conceicao, CARE officer in Dili, expressed the necessity of coordinating local NGOs, perhaps by working with a Forum of NGOs in East Timor, in order to take better advantage of outside assistance. Furthermore, he stressed the importance of grassroots initiatives and the developing links between leaders and society (to build trust).

IV. CONCLUSION

The participants concluded by stressing the grave nature of the current situation in East Timor. **They stressed the clear danger of civil war if no action is taken.** Some outside presence is absolutely necessary to stem imminent civil war and enhance the personal security of the East Timorese people. The identified channels of action were the Security Council, Foreign Ministers' Friends of East Timor Group, Canada's own initiatives or a combination of the three. While immediate intervention aimed at a cease-fire and disarmament is the sine qua non of all further initiatives, thinking should start about how to approach medium and long term reconciliation and development needs of the East Timorese.



125 Sussex Dr. Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

East Timor Roundtable

Monday, February 22, 1999
Government Conference Centre
Colonel By Room
2 Rideau Street
Ottawa

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 8:45-9:00 | Coffee |
| 9:00-9:10 | Welcome Steve Lee,
National Director Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development |
| 9:10-9:20 | Roundtable Introductions |
| 9:20-9:30 | Welcome Ingrid Hall
Director General, South and Southeast Asia Bureau
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade |
| 9:30-10:15 | Capacity Building and Peacebuilding Needs
East Timor Guests |
| 10:15-11:00 | Situation update
Ken Sundquist
Canada's Ambassador to Indonesia |
| 11:00-11:15 | Break |
| 11:15-12:30 | Discussion |
| 12:30-13:30 | Lunch |
| 13:30-15:00 | Discussion |
| 15:00-15:15 | Break |
| 15:15-16:30 | Policy options |
| 16:30-17:00 | Conclusion wrap-up |

List of Participants

Dr. Jacques Bertrand, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

Thérèse Bouchard, Director for Human Rights and Democracy (Conflict Management)
Centre canadien d'étude et de coopération internationale

Sharon Scharfe, Parliamentarians for East Timor

Colin Stewart, One World Partnership

Louise Chernetz, ETAN, CAWG mission to East Timor, and Anglican Church of Canada,
Winnipeg

Maggie Helwig, Canada Action for Indonesia and East Timor

David Rhody/Hong-Won Yu, CARE Canada

Susan Fisher, Unitarian Service Committee (USC) Canada

Debby Cote, Central American Peacebuilding, CUSO

Warren Allmand, General Director
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

Dr. Steven Baranyi, Senior Program Officer, Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Program,
IDRC

Harbey Goldberg, Deputy Director, Canadian Human Rights Commission

Jess Agustin, Canadian Catholic Organisation for Development and Peace,

Bern Jagunos, Anglican Primate World Relief Organisation (until recently with Canada-Asia
Working Group)

Kathryn Robertson, Canada-Asia Working Group

Kerry Pither, National Office, ETAN

Isabel da Costa Galhas, National Council of Timorese Resistant

East Timorese

Antonio Conceicao, CARE officer in Dili

Manuel Abrantes, Bishop Belo's Peace and Justice Commission

Armindo Maia, former Vice-Rector, University of Timor

Florentino Sarmiento, Komnas Ham representative in Dili

Government

Ingrid Hall, Director General, South and Southeast Asia Bureau, DFAIT

Sarah Taylor, Deputy Director, Southeast Asia Division, DFAIT

Ted Langtry, Director General, Indonesia, Philippines and South Pacific Program, CIDA

Jennifer Moher, Peacebuilding and Human Security Division, DFAIT

Christine Hodge, Peacebuilding Unit, CIDA

Jorge Rodriguez Elizalde, Program Manager, Indonesia, Philippines and South Pacific Program, CIDA

Chriss Hull, Southeast Asia Division, DFAIT

Lajos Árendas, Human Rights, Humanitarian Affairs and International Women's Equality Division, DFAIT

Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development

Steve Lee, National Director

Representatives from the Canadian Embassy in Jakarta

Ken Sunkuist, Ambassador

Norm MacDonnell, CIDA



Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

News Release

www.dfa-it-maeci.gc.ca

February 26, 1999 (3:30 p.m. EST) No. 43

CANADA URGES PROGRESS IN THE UPCOMING EAST TIMOR TALKS AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today welcomed the progress made in the ongoing rounds of United Nations-sponsored tripartite (Portugal, Indonesia and the UN) talks on the future of East Timor, based in large part on the change in Indonesian government policy and their willingness to consider autonomy or independence for East Timor. In this context, Canada urges the parties involved in the negotiations to examine UN proposals for a procedure that would give the East Timorese an opportunity to exercise self-determination in accordance with their status as a non self-governing territory.

Canada views the UN Tripartite Process, under the auspices of the UN Secretary- General, as holding the best prospect for a peaceful solution to the issues affecting East Timor. These UN-sponsored discussions between Indonesia and Portugal are set to resume on March 9 in New York.

"The most effective way to ensure progress is through meaningful and comprehensive consultations with the East Timorese, as has been advocated by the UN Secretary General's Personal Representative, Jamsheed Marker," Mr. Axworthy said. "It will be up to the parties involved, with the assistance of the UN, to decide on how consultation with the East Timorese will take place."

Minister Axworthy reiterated Canada's concern about the level of violence in East Timor. He called for an immediate end to violence and a process of disarmament by all parties, including civilian militias. In this regard, the Minister declared Canada's support for the proposal by East Timorese leader, Xanana Gusmao, for a Peace Commission, which would bring together a group of Timorese leaders and Indonesian officials to calm tensions in East Timor as the territory prepares to express itself about its future. The Minister renewed Canada's call for the full and unconditional release of Mr. Gusmao and other East Timorese political prisoners.

In addition, Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan commended the UN for its involvement in the process of determining East Timor's future. "The UN, and particularly Special Representative Marker, have played a crucial role in moving toward a resolution to this issue," Mr. Chan said. "Canada believes that the UN should establish a presence in East Timor in order to enhance its effectiveness there."

Minister Axworthy referred to the extensive bilateral relations that exist between Canada and Indonesia, recalling in particular Canada's direct support to the Indonesian Human Rights Commission, and Canada's significant development assistance programs over the years, including financial support to previous rounds of the All Inclusive Intra-East Timorese Dialogue.

The Centre for Canadian Foreign Policy Development this week hosted a roundtable on East Timor to examine the current political, social and economic context, and to look at ways in which Canada might assist East Timor in a peaceful transition. The roundtable was attended by both Canadian non-governmental organizations and representatives from the East Timorese community.

"There have been important democratization efforts by the Indonesian government over recent months, along with progress toward stabilizing the economy," Mr. Axworthy said. "The impact of the financial and economic difficulties of the past 18 months have been substantial for the Indonesian people. I wish to underline Canada's intention to continue to help in both the political and economic realms."

East Timor, with a population of 800 000, is a former colony of Portugal. It was annexed as the 27th province of Indonesia in 1976. Canada is the third-largest donor in East Timor, with \$1.1 million in aid provided each year.

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Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international

Canada

News Release

July 21, 1999 (9:15 a.m. EDT) No. 165

CANADA CONTRIBUTES PERSONNEL TO UN MISSION TO EAST TIMOR

The Government of Canada today announced that it has provided three police officers and 26 election specialists to the United Nations Mission to East Timor (UNAMET). UNAMET's mandate is to co-ordinate and carry out a ballot in August on the future status of the territory. The Canadian International Development Agency will contribute up to \$2 million for this initiative.

In May 1999, the UN sanctioned an agreement between Portugal and Indonesia setting out a plan for wide-ranging autonomy to be proposed to the East Timorese in August. In June 1999, UN Security Council resolution 1246 established UNAMET, a contingent of approximately 5000 personnel, including up to 280 civilian police, 50 military liaison officers, and political and electoral components, to implement the agreement.

"Canada has actively supported international efforts to resolve the situation of East Timor, and I condemn the recent incidents of violence directed against East Timorese civilians and United Nations personnel, which may put these efforts at risk," said Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy. "We remind the Indonesian government and security forces of their responsibility to establish a secure environment for East Timorese and representatives of the international community in the lead-up to the ballot. The task of building peace and reconciliation cannot succeed without their co-operation."

The 26 election specialists will work under the aegis of the International Organization for Migration. That agency is co-ordinating the polling process for the several thousand East Timorese who are eligible to vote but live in Portugal, Indonesia, Macau and Mozambique.

"By sharing their expertise, Canadian police officers and electoral supervisors can help restore peace and stability in the region," said Minister for International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie Diane Marleau. "We are supporting this initiative so that the people of East Timor may one day thrive and live in a democratic, stable and prosperous society."

The three officers are members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Two of them, who are already in Darwin, Australia, are serving as pre-deployment trainers for UNAMET civilian police.

"We are very pleased that these law enforcement officers will have the opportunity to share their expertise with local and international colleagues," said Solicitor General Lawrence MacAulay. "I know Canada can count on their professionalism and ability to serve the UN well."

Funding for the initiative announced today was provided for in the February 1999 federal budget and is therefore built into the existing fiscal framework.

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News Release

August 26, 1999 (6:00 p.m. EDT) No. 189

CANADA TO SEND OBSERVERS TO EAST TIMOR POPULAR CONSULTATION

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy, Minister for International Co-operation Maria Minna and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today announced that a Canadian delegation will travel to Dili, the capital of East Timor, to observe the August 30 ballot on the future of the territory. The delegation will be led by Mr. Chan and includes Raymonde Folco, MP (Laval West).

The popular consultation will determine whether East Timorese accept or reject a proposal for special autonomy status within Indonesia. Its rejection will lead to East Timor's independence.

"I am disturbed by the recent escalation of violence in East Timor and ask the Indonesian authorities to meet their obligation to maintain security there," said Mr. Axworthy. "This is a historic occasion for the East Timorese people. The ballot is the result of much negotiation and compromise, and it is our sincere wish that all parties will treat the process, and its results, in the spirit of cooperation, tolerance and goodwill."

Minister Axworthy also stated that Canada is heartened by reports that the Indonesian government has said that it will release East Timorese rebel leader Xanana Gusmao in September. Canada has strongly lobbied the Indonesian government on Mr. Gusmao's behalf.

"Canada has long been the third-largest donor to East Timor and, including our contribution to the United Nations Mission to East Timor (UNAMET), is providing over \$4 million in assistance this year," said Minister Minna. "I wish to assure the people of the region that Canada will continue to support the development path they choose to follow after the August 30 consultation."

"Canada believes that the presence of international and local observers will assist in creating an environment necessary for the conduct of a free and fair ballot," said Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Chan. "UNAMET has done an excellent job in preparing for the vote, but we are concerned that some groups have questioned its neutrality." Mr. Chan noted that there are continued credible reports that Indonesian security officials are assisting pro-autonomy militias and that this is in direct contravention of the May agreement signed by the Indonesian and Portuguese governments at the United Nations. "Threats to reject the results of the consultation and the resort to violence are cause for grave concern," he said.

Canada supported Security Council Resolution 1257, of August 3, which extended UNAMET's mandate to November 30 and augmented its civilian police and military liaison components. These measures, and the recent agreement among East Timorese to form a Joint Consultative Commission, will help to ensure a peaceful and effective post-ballot transition, no matter what the outcome.

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News Release

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August 30, 1999 (7:00 p.m. EDT) No. 193

CANADA URGES CALM IN EAST TIMOR

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy and Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan today commented on the popular consultation in East Timor, which will determine whether East Timorese accept or reject a proposal for special autonomy status within Indonesia.

Initial reports suggest that although the ballot took place in a mostly calm atmosphere, some violent incidents did occur, including the death of a local member of the United Nations Mission to East Timor (UNAMET). He was the first known casualty in today's ballot, and the first UN worker killed since UNAMET began its mission in May.

"We are saddened by the death of UNAMET member Joel Lopez Gomes," said Minister Axworthy. "This incident demonstrates the critical need for calm and patience during the counting and after the results. The Government of Indonesia must also be vigilant in carrying out its continued responsibility for security in East Timor."

"The voter turnout in East Timor was remarkable, despite the widespread intimidation and violence before the vote," said Mr. Chan. "We are pleased with initial reports that the ballot took place in a relatively peaceful environment."

Secretary of State Chan led a delegation of Canadian observers to East Timor, including Raymonde Folco, MP (Laval West). The delegation observed voting at three locations across East Timor, and Mr. Chan visited nine polling stations.

Results of the popular consultation are not expected for five to seven days, when they will be announced at the United Nations in New York and from UNAMET in Dili.

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News Release

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September 3, 1999 (9:40 p.m. EDT) No. 198

AXWORTHY APPLAUDS SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF BALLOT PROCESS IN EAST TIMOR

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy today applauded the successful conclusion of the United Nations-sponsored ballot on the future of East Timor and noted the clear majority (78.5 percent) who had supported separation from Indonesia.

"The people of East Timor have expressed their will," said Mr. Axworthy. "The decision of an overwhelming majority on a clear question makes the result unambiguous. The task now is for all East Timorese to contribute to national reconciliation and building a peaceful future."

The Minister congratulated the Indonesian government for its co-operation with Portugal and the United Nations in presenting East Timor with the opportunity to clearly express its will about its future.

He urged the Indonesian authorities to maintain peace and order in East Timor in the wake of the vote, to provide necessary security and to quell destabilizing violence, including the activities of militias. He stressed that international personnel (including 30 Canadians) assisting with the transitional process must be protected. Mr. Axworthy had conveyed this point to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in a telephone conversation earlier today. He also discussed with the Secretary-General the overall security situation in East Timor and the role of the international community in the transitional process.

Secretary of State (Asia-Pacific) Raymond Chan led Canada's observer delegation to East Timor for the ballot. He said, "I trust the People's Consultative Assembly of Indonesia will follow through by moving forward with measures for a transition to independence."

Mr. Axworthy noted that Canada has been among the world's largest contributors to development assistance in East Timor and will continue to do its fair share in the future.

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News Release

www.dfa-it-maect.gc.ca

September 15, 1999 (4:40 p.m. EDT) No. 204

CANADA'S OBJECTIVES MET AS SECURITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MULTINATIONAL FORCE FOR EAST TIMOR

Foreign Affairs Minister Lloyd Axworthy welcomed today the successful and unanimous passage of the United Nations Security Council resolution authorizing a multinational force for East Timor.

"The speed with which this important resolution was approved demonstrates the international community's sense of urgency over the situation in East Timor," Mr. Axworthy said. "Our overriding objective was to see the rapid deployment of an international peacekeeping force to East Timor to stop the violence. We also worked hard to ensure that humanitarian assistance is delivered under secure conditions, that all displaced East Timorese are guaranteed the right of safe return and that those who have committed atrocities in East Timor are brought to justice. The inclusion of all these elements in the Security Council resolution demonstrates that Canadian objectives for East Timor are shared by the international community."

Canada has long been a proponent of the need for rapid deployment of peacekeeping forces, particularly in response to humanitarian needs.

The Minister noted that Canada played an active role at the Security Council on the issue of East Timor. Canada repeatedly urged the Council to remind the Government of Indonesia of its responsibility to maintain security in the territory. Canada's initiative to convene a meeting of 20 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum representatives, and British Foreign Minister Robin Cook, on the margins of the recent APEC meeting in Auckland, was critical in generating the necessary consensus for a peacekeeping mission. It also helped to convince the Government of Indonesia to accept such a force.

As a current member of the Security Council, Canada was among the first to call on the UN to produce a plan for an accelerated UN peacekeeping presence. In addition, Canada strongly supported the deployment of a Security Council delegation to Indonesia to convey the Council's concerns directly to the Government of Indonesia. Canada helped ensure that humanitarian and international justice issues were appropriately addressed in the final resolution.

Canada will be contributing up to 600 personnel to the multinational force and is consulting with both the UN and Australia, the lead nation, to determine what services Canada is best able to provide. Canada hopes that the international force will be turned over to a UN-commanded peacekeeping operation as soon as possible.

Mr. Axworthy drew attention to the participation of Canada's ambassador to Indonesia, Ken Sunquist, who travelled to West Timor on September 14 with his Norwegian counterpart and five Indonesian ministers to assess the humanitarian situation there. Canada, through CIDA,

has pledged \$420 000 to CARE Canada, which is currently working from West Timor to provide survival kits to 25 000 people.

- 30 -

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